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7 AUG 1959

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(U) Development of SAMOS

Commander, ARDC

1. Reference conference with Lt Gen Wilson, B/Gen Bromley, Maj Floyd of DCS/Development, Hq USAF, and Col Odom, Lt Col Suit, and Maj Steinberg of AFBD on 23 July 1959. In support of decisions reached at this meeting regarding development of the SAMOS, the following specific guidance is submitted:

a. All reconnaissance data will be transmitted direct from the tracking and acquisition or recovery stations to Offutt AFB.

b. Necessary numbers of specialized equipment together with contractor support required to receive, compile, process and disseminate reconnaissance data obtained from both R&D and operational SAMOS Satellites will be located by ARDC at Offutt AFB at the earliest date.

c. There will be an operationally ready intelligence data processing capability established at Offutt AFB during April 1960.

d. There will be an operationally ready technical operations control capability established at Offutt AFB during October 1961.

e. The intelligence data processing and technical operations control elements will be established to operate as a coordinated unit at Offutt AFB during and after October 1961.

f. SAMOS Subsystem I will be developed in accordance with Hq USAF Letter (T-) to Comdr AFBD (Info ARDC, BADC and SAC) subject: (S) Design Concept for Surveillance Subsystem I, dated 17 March 1959.

2. Funds and authorities available to AFBD under the SAMOS program will be cited to provide the necessary facilities at Offutt AFB for both the initial SAMOS intelligence data processing capability (April 1960) and the later intelligence data processing/technical operations capability (Oct 61).

AF Chief of Staff

AFDIR-T-2 ...SCOE C Wilson Maj Gen USAF
Lt. General, USAF
Deputy Chief of Staff, Dev. Development

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14 AUG 1959

Sentry-Midas Briefing to Dr. York

Secretary of the Air Force

1. Dr. York and members of his staff were given the Air Force presentation on the Vandenberg AFB/Ft Arguello question on 7 August 1959. Among those present were:

Dr. Charyk
General Strother
General Wilson
General Donnelly
Mr. Gubbins - DDR
Mr. Wagner - DDR

2. The briefing was oriented around the need for real estate to accommodate operational Sentry/Midas and the Air Force - Navy differences with regard to responsibilities on the West Coast. Additionally, the duplication of facilities at Ft Arguello in spite of existing capabilities at Vandenberg AFB was covered fully in the briefing.

3. One complex of two launch stands is nearing completion on Ft Arguello. As you will recall, we stated a requirement for an additional 3 stands for the Midas and 2 stands for the Sentry operational program to support 2 - 3 Midas firings per month from July 1961 and 1 - 2 Sentry firings per month from October 1961. It is planned that these operational capabilities will commence early in the R&D program and run concurrently with it. Dr. York questioned the requirement for additional launch facilities in this time period and expressed the doubt that necessary funding could be made available for all of these additional facilities or that we would have any operational capability this soon.

4. The problems associated with the other aspects of the briefings were recognized by Dr. York and he indicated that Mr. Wagner would look into these. Basically, we understand his interpretation of this problem to be, common range support versus system manager support. Some mention was made that this problem should be referred to the Cisler Committee (Mr. McElroy's committee to study the Global Range and associated problems) but there was no definite indication that this would be done.

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5. The effect of the briefing was somewhat prejudiced in the discussion of our requirements for operational facilities. While Dr. York recognized that the Navy was making elaborate plans for Argueilo against unknown or questionable requirements, he viewed our Midas and Sentry Operational plans in the same light.

6. There is certainly no question that the Midas operational program is one of high risk and we have somewhat less risk in Sentry in this time period. On the other hand some additional launch facilities will be required eventually on the West Coast and we believe this to be about 5 more launch stands.

7. Regardless of the timing of our operational requirements, we still must resolve the problem of control and support of existing launch facilities on Pt Arguello.

8. Subsequent to the briefing the general question of NSM/Vandenberg AFB relationship was highlighted by the conflict with respect to the launching of Discoverer V and VI. Specifically, the NSM withheld approval of these firings on the basis of safety criteria which the Air Force felt was unrealistic. This matter was resolved in favor of the Air Force by Dr. York for these two shots only.

9. We are now informed that the Pt Arguello/Vandenberg AFB question will be referred to the Clalor Committee as a matter of first priority. It is evident that Dr. York will not take a stand on this question pending receipt of inputs from this committee.

D. C. STROTHER
Lieutenant General, USAF
Deputy Chief of Staff,
Operations

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